

Submitter: Amy Moss Strong

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4153

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

My name is Amy Moss Strong and I am a community member and journalist in Bandon, Oregon. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4153. Farm stands are a vital part of connecting the public with our food system and building an understanding of what it takes to go from field to fork. But HB 4153 would restrict who is allowed to have a farm stand, replace current definitions with Farm Stores, and give large land owners privileges at the expense of small farm stands in Oregon. We need to find a better solution.

I care about this because I frequently go to a farm stand that would not meet the acreage requirements in section 2.2 of the bill. I am not able to grow my own food and the fresh, organic produce I am able to buy helps my family eat healthily. We also enjoy picking our own produce directly from the field, when that option is available. It helps connect my family to the food cycle.

We also receive food for the local food banks from these farm stands. I'm a board member for Bandon Food and Flourish, a local food pantry, and volunteer with Bandon Good Neighbors (another local food pantry) and Bandon Feeds the Hungry, a fundraising organization for the local food pantries. Through the generosity of these local farm stands, we are able to provide fresh, health vegetables and fruits to people needing food assistance in our area.

I believe small farms need to have the same opportunities to sell their produce as larger farms.

We are asking you to not place a higher burden on the smallest farms. This bill takes away opportunities from small land holders and farms in order for larger operations to be able to host more events. This is not a good bargain for Oregon and a better deal must be found.

Thank you,

Amy Moss Strong
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